

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2844
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
PREGNANCY DEATH AMONGST SCs/STs
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Kurup Adv. Suresh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether among the women dying during pregnancy, delivery or post partum complications,a large proportion are from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as reported in the Times of India dated 11 October,2008;
- (b) if so,the details of the facts reported therein;
- (c) whether according to data collected by UNICEF,the maternal mortality ratio shows that women are dying of preventable causes of death;
- (d) if so,the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;and
- (e) the preventive steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e) The latest officially published survey report of the Registrar General of India-Sample Registration System (RGI-SRS), titled "Maternal Mortality in India: 1997-2003 trends,causes and risk factors" (2006), does not indicate the percentage of maternal deaths during pregnancy, delivery or post partum period among Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

There is no officially published data by UNICEF for the country as a whole on the causes of maternal deaths. However, the RGI survey report gives the leading causes of maternal mortality for the country as "hemorrhage", "sepsis", "abortion", "obstructed labour", "hypertensive disorders" and "other conditions".

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (2005-2012),and under its umbrella,the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II,launched by the Government of India in the year 2005,aims to improve access to equitable,affordable,accountable and effective primary health care,in the rural areas of the country, especially for poor women and children,with a special focus on 18 States which have weak public health indicators and weak infrastructure.Under the Mission, the following key strategies and interventions are being implemented to accelerate the pace of reduction in maternal mortality, namely Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY),a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women;Operationalizing Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRUs) and Primary Health Centers for 24X7 services; Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill-based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendance;training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarian Section; Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services;prevention and treatment of Anemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation;Organizing Village Health & Nutrition Day at Anganwadi Centers;Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women; Strengthening of Health Facilities,that is, District Hospitals,Community Health Centres (CHCs) Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub Centres (SCs), by providing them with funds including untied grants,Annual Maintenance Grants (AMG) and Corpus Funds to improve service delivery.